

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /118 W

----- 099621

R 142356Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9570

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, MX

SUBJECT: MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ REPLACED AS HEAD OF NACCIONAL
FINANCIERA

1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS NACIONAL FINANCIERA (NAFIN,
STATE DEVELOPMENT BANK) MADE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT
NIGHT OF JANUARY 11 THAT LIC. GUILLERMO MARTINEZ
DOMINGUEZ WAS BEING REPLACED AS NAFIN DIRECTOR BY LIC.
GUSTAVO ROMERO KOLBECK, HEAD OF FINANCIERA AZUCARERA
(FINASA, STATE SUGAR BANK). MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ WAS
REPORTED TO HAVE RESIGNED FOR UNSPECIFIED "PERSONAL
REASONS."

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2. ROMERO KOLBECK, 47, IS 1946 GRADUATE IN ECONOMICS

FROM UNAM (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY). FOLLOWING GRADUATE STUDIES AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, HE SERVED AS ECONOMIC ADVISOR BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. HE HAS WORKED WITH BANCO DE MEXICO (CENTRAL BANK) NAFIN, AND WITH MEXICO'S TWO LEADING COMMERCIAL BANKS (BANCO DE COMMERIO AND BANCO NACIONAL DE MEXICO) IN ECONOMIC STUDIES CAPACITY. HE ALSO HEADED ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT AT ANAHUAC UNIVERSITY, A PRIVATE INSTITUTION IN MEXICO CITY. IN 1971, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA APPOINTED ROMERO AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, WHERE HE SERVED UNTIL BEING NAMED RECENTLY AS DIRECTOR OF FINASA.

3. IN PRESS STATEMENTS, MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ NOTED THAT "IN MEXICO, ONE MUST THINK OF INSTITUTIONS AND OF GOALS, AND NOT ABOUT INDIVIDUALS," AND URGED INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY AND COOPERATION FOLLOWING HIS DEPARTURE. ROMERO KOLBECK INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE A PUBLIC FIGURE WHO TALKED ONLY ABOUT HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, NOT ABOUT FUTURE PLANS, AND DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT. CONFERENCE WAS HELD FOLLOWING FRIDAY NIGHT MEETING DESCRIBED AS AN "EXTRAORDINARY, URGENT SESSION" OF NAFIN BOARD, WHICH IS HEADED BY SECRETARY OF TREASURY JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO.

4. COMMENTS: (1) RESIGNATION OF MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ, WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS "ABRUPT BY ONE OBSERVER, HAS SOME ASPECTS OF A FORCED DEPARTURE. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT HIS BROTHER, LIC. ALFONSO MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ, WAS FORCED TO RESIGN HIS POSITION AS MAYOR (REGENTE) OF MEXICO CITY FOLLOWING REPRESSION OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN JUNE 1971 (FOR BACKGROUND SEE MEXICO'S A-456 OF 8/27/71), AND SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRENT RUMORS OF THE NAFIN DIRECTOR'S DEPARTURE; (2) A POSSIBILITY, RAISED BY INFLUENTIAL, LEFT-WING DAILY EXCELSIOR IN JANUARY 14 EDITORIAL, IS THAT MARTINEZ DOMINGUEZ DEPARTURE IS CONNECTED WITH NAFIN ANNOUNCEMENT LAST NOVEMBER THAT CERTAIN STATE-HELD COMPANIES MIGHT BE RE-SOLD TO PRIVATE SECTOR, A POLICY LATER DISAVOWED BY THE GOM (MEXICO A-587 OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOVEMBER 23, 1973; AND (3) NEW DIRECTOR APPEARS TO HAVE RANGE OF PROFESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE TO MANAGE NAFIN JOB COMPETENTLY, THOUGH EMBASSY HAS HEARD SOME MILD CRITICISM OF HIS HANDLING OF ASSIGNMENT IN TOKYO.
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